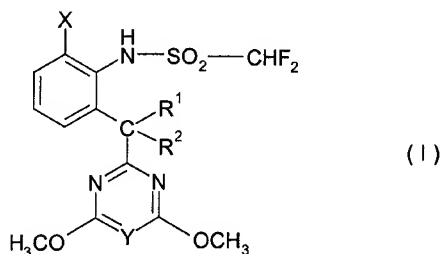


Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula (I)



wherein

X represents halogen,

Y represents CH or N,

R¹ represents hydrogen, and

R² represents hydrogen or hydroxy, or

R¹ and R² together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form C=O.

2. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein

X represents fluorine or chlorine,

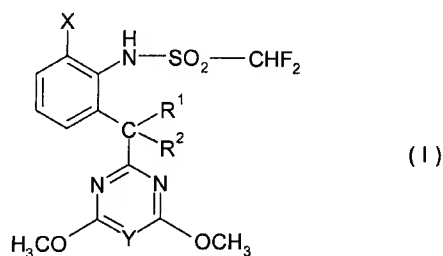
Y represents CH or N,

R¹ represents hydrogen, and

R² represents hydrogen or hydroxy, or

R¹ and R² together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form C=O.

3. (Previously presented) A process for preparing a compound of the formula (I) according to claim 1,

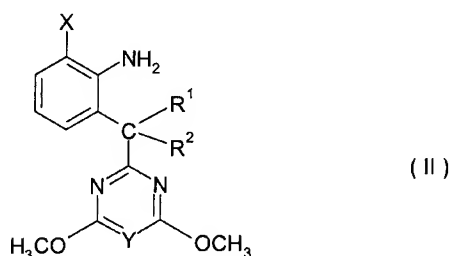


wherein

X, Y, R^1 and R^2 are defined as in claim 1,

comprising,

a) reacting a compound of the formula (II)



wherein

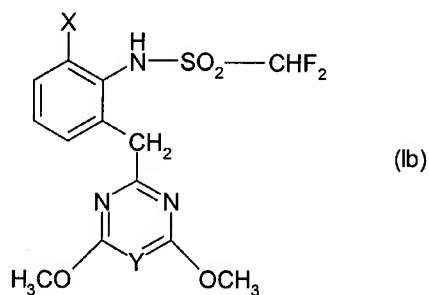
X, Y, R^1 and R^2 have the same definition as aforementioned,

with difluoromethanesulfonyl chloride in the presence of an inert solvent, and optionally, in the presence of an acid binding agent,

or

b) when R^1 and R^2 together form C=O with the carbon atom to which they are attached:

reacting a compound of the formula (Ib)



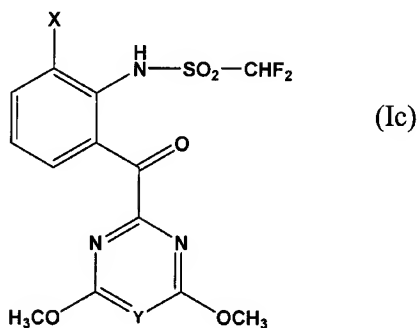
wherein

X and Y have the same definition as aforementioned,

with an oxidizing agent in the presence of an inert solvent, and optionally, in the presence of an acid catalyst,

or

c) when R¹ represents hydrogen, and R² represents hydroxy:
reacting a compound of the formula (Ic)



wherein

X and Y have the same definition as aforementioned,

with an alkali metal hydride complex compound or a borane complex
in the presence of an inert solvent.

4. (Currently amended) A herbicidal composition comprising ~~at least one compound~~ one or more compounds of the formula (I) according to claim 1.

5. (Currently amended) A process for combating paddy field weeds, comprising, contacting a paddy field weed or its habitat with ~~at least one compound~~ one or more compounds of the formula (I) according to claim 1.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously presented) A process for the preparation of a herbicidal composition, comprising, mixing a compound of the formula (I) according to claim 1 with one or more extenders or one or more surface active agents, or a combination of one or more extenders and one or more surface active agents.